

REMARKS

In the outstanding official action, the drawing was objected to because certain reference signs mentioned in the description were not included. In response, the instant specification is herewith amended to delete the objected-to reference signs, such that the figure is now described consistently with what is actually depicted and shown in the drawing.

With regard to the objection to the specification for not following the suggested guidelines regarding headings and the like, this suggestion is acknowledged, but headings have not been added as they are not required in accordance with MPEP §608.01(a).

On the merits, claims 8, 11, 12, 16 and 17 were deemed to be allowable if placed in independent form, while the remaining claims were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) or 35 USC 103(a) for the reasons of record.

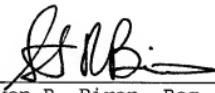
In response, allowable claims 8 and 17 are herewith cancelled, without prejudice, and the allowable subject matter of one or the other of these claims has been incorporated into independent claims 1, 9, 10 and 18, such that all of the independent claims now contain allowable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the currently-pending independent claims, and the remaining claims depending therefrom,

now contain allowable subject matter in accordance with the indication of allowability in the outstanding Action.

Accordingly, allowance of the instant application is respectfully submitted to be justified at the present time, and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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